



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/077,891

02/20/2002

Hiroteru Tsuchiya

016907-1374

3110

22428

7590

05/30/2006

FOLEY AND LARDNER LLP
SUITE 500
3000 K STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20007

EXAMINER

BRINICH, STEPHEN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 05/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
---------------------------------	-------------	---	---------------------

EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER
----------	-------

20060518

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

Art Unit: 2625

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see Response filed 3/9/06 (page 10, lines 12-24), with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-19 under 35 USC §112 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of 35 USC §112.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, lines 13-14, claim 12, lines 17-18 & 22, claim 17, line 8, claim 18, line 8, and claim 19, lines 14-15, the term "the transmitting unit" lacks proper antecedent basis, as it is unclear whether it refers to the previously recited "first transmitting unit" or "second transmitting unit".

Art Unit: 2625

In claim 15, lines 2-3, the term "the class information storing unit" lacks proper antecedent basis in parent claim 11.

In claim 16, line 13, the term "the transmitting unit" lacks proper antecedent basis, as it does not correspond to either the previously recited "first transmitting means" or "second transmitting means".

In claim 17, line 9 and claim 18, line 9, the terms "the class information" and "the class information storing unit" lack proper antecedent basis.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-19, insofar as they are understood, would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

The art of record does not teach or suggest the recited first transmitting unit configured to transmit an electronic mail with an attached image file format defined by an Internet facsimile system, second transmitting unit configured to transmit an electronic mail with an attached image file in a different format, and a selection between the two in accordance with stored class information indicating whether a mail address is in accordance with the first format (as set forth in claims 1, 12, & 16-19, insofar as they are understood).

Art Unit: 2625

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Iwazaki, Terao, Toyoda, Toyoda et al, and Iwaki disclose examples of Internet facsimile arrangements integrated with electronic mail transmission arrangements.

6. Any inquiry concerning the contents of this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen M. Brinich at 571-272-7430.

Any inquiry relating to the status of this application or proceeding or any inquiry of a general nature concerning application processing should be directed to the Tech Center 2600 Customer Service center at 571-272-2600 or to the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199 or 703-308-4357.

The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays 7:00-4:30, alternate Fridays off.

The examiner's unit designation has been changed from "Art Unit 2624" to "Technology Division 2625" (as of March 20, 2006).

If attempts to contact the examiner and the Customer Service Center are unsuccessful, supervisor David Moore can be contacted at 571-272-7437.

Art Unit: 2625

Faxes pertaining to this application should be directed to the Tech Center 2600 official fax number, which is 571-273-8300 (as of July 15, 2005).

Hand-carried correspondence may be delivered to the Customer Service Window, located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.



Stephen M Brinich
Examiner
Technology Division 2625

smb

May 18, 2006